MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

映画研究部が総力をあげて撮影した『謎の彼女X』も無事に完成、文化祭での上映が始まった。もちろん、あくまで演技ではあったけど、いつもはト部と行っている"日課"を鹿詰野と行うというのは、何だか後ろめたかったりもした。でも、この撮影を通じて、よりト部のことを知ることができたし、もっと心が近づいたと思う。僕たちの思いが詰まったこの作品、観てくれた人はどんな反応をするんだろう——。

10

UESHIBA 植芝理一 RIICHI

AFTERNOON KC ✂ KODANSHA Ltd.

風見台高校
第45回
文化祭
FLYING UP!
GO!
SIGN: THE 45TH KAZAMIDAI HIGH SCHOOL CULTURE FESTIVAL
ようこそ♥風見台
WELCOME♥TO KAZAMIDAI
生物部
天文部
演劇部
百人一首同好会
合唱部
タコ焼
¥300
ソフトクリーム

LEFT TOP POSTER: KAZAMIDAI ROCK FESTIVAL
風見台
ロックフェス
LEFT BOTTOM POSTER: WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR DONUTS
当店自慢の
ドーナツ♥
TASTY♪
喫茶・軽食
FUN♪
WELCOME
2ねんAぐみ♥
SIGN RIGHT: CLASS 2-1♥
SIGN MAIN: SNACK CAFÉ
THANKS.
OH,
HERE ARE YOUR COFFEE AND DONUTS!
HM?
EXCUSE ME...
PLEASE TAKE THIS...
SLIP

POSTER TOP: AN UNIDENTIFIABLE ROMANCE MOVIE

POSTER TITLE: MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y

CHAPTER 69: MYSTERIOUS MOVIE SCREENING (PART 1)

OKA-SAN!
TWO ORDERS OF TUNA TOAST!
AH...
GOT IT!
TWO TUNA TOAST!
ジャッ
SIZZLE
ジャッ
SIZZLE

IT'S SO BUSY
BEING THE HEAD CHEF!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A WAITRESS, YOU KNOW!
IT'S JUST BECAUSE
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD COOK.
YAKI-SOBA!
HERE!
ORDER UP!

OH...
WE'RE OUT OF TUNA!
UENO-KUN!
シャッ
SHINK

I'D GET TO SEE OKA IN A WAITRESS COSTUME AT THE FESTIVAL...
AND HERE I THOUGHT MAN...
HMPH...
YET SHE ENDED UP BEING A COOK...
FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE, QUICK!
I NEED YOU TO BUY 10 CANS OF TUNA
WHAT? AGAIN?
WE RAN OUT!
I CAN'T HELP IT!
BUT WHO'S THE ONE THAT GETS ALL GRUMPY WHENEVER
YOU SAY THAT NOW,
UH, BUT...
I...
I'M DRESSED CUTE AND GETTING ATTENTION FROM BOYS?!
YE—
YES, SIR!
HOP TO IT!
FORGET IT!
WE HAVE CUSTOMERS WAITING!
SIGN TITLE: MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y
SIGN TOP: AN UNIDENTIFIABLE ROMANCE MOVIE
正体不明の恋愛映画
謎の彼女Y
風見台高校映研究部
SIGN BOTTOM: PRODUCED BY THE KAZAMIDAI HIGH SCHOOL FILM STUDIES CLUB

THERE! PERFECT!
THAT'S IT.
正体不明の恋愛映画
謎の彼女Y
OH, IT'S TILTED.
RAISE THE LEFT END HIGHER.
WE ALREADY HANDED OUT FLYERS
THE MOVIE'S NOT EVEN DONE YET, IS IT?
BUT
SAYING IT STARTS AT 3:00.
映画研究部
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO?
GRAB SOMETHING FROM A STALL SOMEWHERE?
YEAH, I THINK SO.
YOU GUYS SHOULD EAT NOW,
WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME.
OH, SURE.
HEY.
ARE STILL IN THE CLUB ROOM WORKING ON THE EDITING...
THE PRESIDENT AND MATSUZAWA
THEY HAVE LESS THAN 2 HOURS!

SUWANO ...
TSUBAKI-KUN!
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
I BROUGHT YOU SOME YAKISOBA.
I'M ON BREAK NOW TOO, SO WHY DON'T WE
EAT IT IN THE COURTYARD TOGETHER?
OKAY.
OH...
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
UH, WELL,
LUCKY ...

SLURP
そ〜
SLURP
そっ♪
!
IT'S GOOD!
ISN'T IT?
OUR HEAD CHEF, OKA-SAN, MADE IT.
SHE'S REALLY AN AMAZING COOK.
CLASS 2-A'S CAFÉ IS BOOMING THANKS TO HER.
猫カフェ
3-B
美術部
1-A

WE'RE DONE FILMING THE MOVIE, YOU KNOW.
WHA...
TSUBAKI-KUN,
WANT A TASTE?
IF IT WAS URABE-SAN'S,
WOULD YOU TASTE IT?

TSUBAKI-KUN,
A WHILE AGO...
HOW...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IT WASN'T HARD TO FIGURE OUT.
NOT AFTER I SAW THE FINAL SCENE IN THE MOVIE!
TSUBAKI-KUN...
IN THAT SCENE,
URABE-SAN, ISN'T IT?
IT'S
YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND.
SHE DOES HAVE SORT OF SLANTED EYES...
THOUGH IT'S HARD TO TELL,
SINCE THEY'RE USUALLY HIDDEN BEHIND HER BANGS.

WHEN YOU TASTED THE INTELLIGENT AUTOMATON URABE'S DROOL,
YOU ACTUALLY CRIED.
YOU WEREN'T ACTING, WERE YOU?
THOSE WERE REAL TEARS.
AS I WATCHED THAT SCENE
WHILE WE WERE FILMING,
I THOUGHT,
THE GIRL TSUBAKI-KUN LOVES
MUST BE URABE-SAN.
I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY.

HAVE YOU EVER TASTED HER DROOL?
TSUBAKI-KUN,
THEN,
THAT'S RIGHT.
URABE IS MY GIRLFRIEND.
NOD
コク
ER... I MEAN ...
THAT TIME DURING THE FILMING,
WHEN YOU GAVE ME...
Y—
YOUR ACTUAL
DROOL ...
"THAT"?
I WANT TO PRETEND
"THAT" NEVER HAPPENED.
THA—
THAT'S WHY...

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED,
THE ONLY GIRL WHOSE DROOL I WANT TO TASTE
IS MY GIRLFRIEND, URABE'S.
THAT'S HOW I WANT IT.
SO LET'S JUST
CALL "THAT" AN ACCIDENT.
PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.
THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO...
WHY IS DROOL
SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?
WELL, YOU MIGHT SAY...
DROOL IS THE BOND
BETWEEN URABE AND ME...
SHAKE
A—
ANYWAY!
LET'S JUST
LEAVE IT AT THAT!
HMM...
I'M WILLING TO PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED,
BUT ON ONE CONDITION.

HERE AND NOW...
TO LICK THIS OFF MY FINGER,
I WANT YOU
CONDI-TION?
三国志研究会
HE—
HERE AND NOW?!
RELAX!
BUT... WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE AROUND...
IT'S NOTHING BUT SPORTS DRINK.
ON MY FINGER JUST NOW.
YOU SAW WHAT I PUT

I'LL DO AS YOU ASKED...
IF YOU DO IT,
NEVER HAPPENED.
AND PRETEND "THAT"

三国志研究会

EH?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
HER FINGER'S IN HIS MOUTH...
WHAT THE?
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT THE HECK ARE THOSE TWO DOING?
SHUNK
PWIP

BANNER LEFT: SHOWING AT 3:00 IN THE AV ROOM! BANNER RIGHT: PRODUCED BY THE FILM STUDIES CLUB
BANNER MIDDLE: MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y

I USED MY FAMILY'S SECRET SEASONING TECHNIQUES.
RIGHT?!
IT'S GOOD.
OH...
OH...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR TO THE STAGE GREETINGS?
ME?
MY SCHOOL UNIFORM.
I'LL SLIP OUT TO COME WATCH!
OH!
THE CAST AND CREW ARE GOING TO GREET THE AUDIENCE BEFORE THE SHOWING, RIGHT?
I'M THINKING OF GOING TO THE AV ROOM AFTER THIS, TOO...
WHERE'S TSUBAKI-KUN?
BY THE WAY,
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THIS MORNING.
HE'S HELPING WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE MOVIE SHOWING.
HE IS TECHNICALLY A CLUB MEMBER, AFTER ALL.

SPARKLE
AFTER WE FINISH EATING,
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A WHILE?
NO, NO! YOU CAN'T WEAR THAT!
YOU'LL BE GREETING ALL THOSE PEOPLE ON THE STAGE!
AND IT'S THE CULTURE FESTIVAL!

KAZAMIDAI THE LIVE BATTLE!
THANK YOU
THAT MEANS WE HAVE A NEW TOP SCORE!
7 POINTS!
8 POINTS!
8 POINTS!
9 POINTS!
9 POINTS!
KANSAI

ALL ARE WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER!
WHO MIGHT OUR NEXT CHALLENGER BE?
OKAY!
YES!
YOU! RIGHT THERE!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MIKOTO URABE
FROM CLASS 2-A.
LIVE BATTLE
LIVE BATTLE

MIDAI THE LIVE BATTLE!
HUH?
WHAT IS URABE-SAN DOING
UP THERE...?!
THIS...
WHAT WILL YOU BE SINGING?
SHE WAS JUST WITH ME UNTIL A MOMENT AGO...

BUM
BUM
BUM
BUM
ALL RIGHT, LET'S HEAR HER SONG!
MIKOTO URABE FROM CLASS 2-A!
歌は心
I'LL BE SINGING...
TUG
WHOOSH
FWISH

THE
BAM!
"RED VACATION"

BY MOMOKA IMAI!
END OF X CHAPTER 69

WAAAAAAAAH
歴史研究会
オリジナルゲーム発表会!!
第二校舎5-B予
WAAAAAAAAH
FLY UP!
MAN... SOMETHING'S GOT THEM EXCITED OVER THERE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ISN'T THAT WHERE THE LIVE STAGE IS?

CHAPTER 70:
MYSTERIOUS MOVIE SCREENING (PART 2)
BAT
WAAAAAAAAAAAAH

BAM
WAAAAAAAAH

THE HIGHEST RANKING YET!
A PERFECT SCORE!!
THERE YOU HAVE IT!
10 POINTS!
10 POINTS!
10 POINTS!
10 POINTS!
10 POINTS!
校長
幹音
生徒会
カエル
Aルパン
TELL US HOW YOU FEEL AFTER GETTING A PERFECT SCORE!
UH...
WELL, LET'S SEE!
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE PERFOR-MANCE!
AH...
THANKS ...
YOU SANG AND DANCED JUST LIKE MOMOKA IMAI!
TODAY AT 3:00,
IN THE AV ROOM...
YANK
ゲットッ

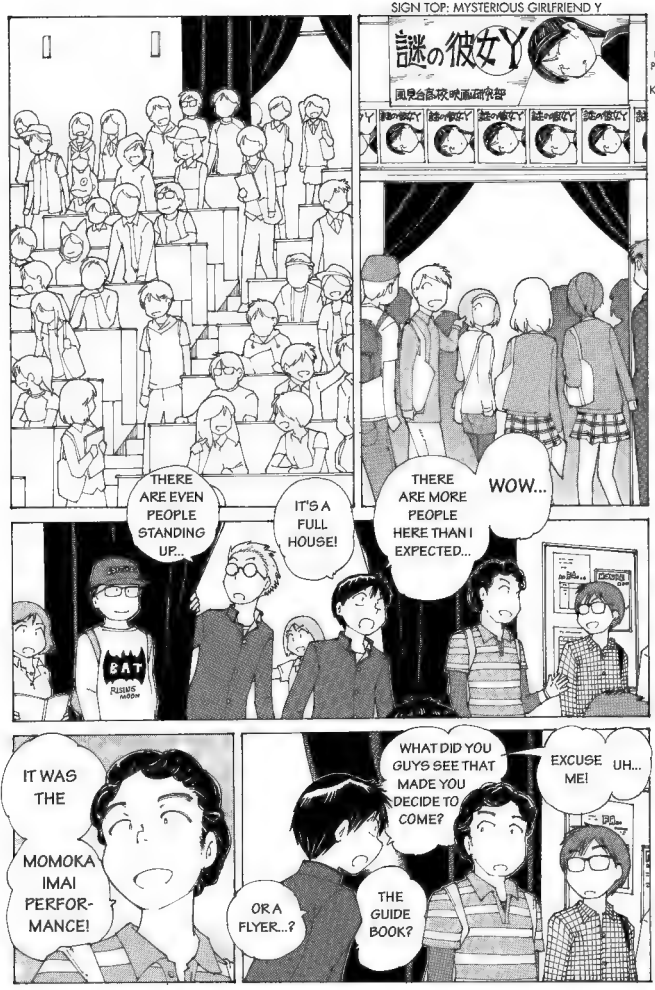
"MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y," WILL BE SHOWING!
THE MOVIE STARRING ME,
CONSIDER THIS AN INVITATION TO ALL OF YOU...
I'D LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS CUSTOM-MADE TROPHY...
OKAY, FOR GET-TING A PER-FECT SCORE.
TO COME
AND MAKE SURE
CHECK IT OUT!
AH!
WA-WAIT A...
DASH

SIGN: FILM STUDIES CLUB

HE—
HERE'S
THE FINISHED MOVIE!
WE WORKED FOR TWO DAYS WITHOUT SLEEP...
OH...
YOU REALLY WORKED HARD!
OH...
IT'S DONE.
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE SCREENING!
ARE YOU DONE WITH THE EDITING?
GOT IT!
LEAVE THE REST TO US!
GET EVERYTHING READY FOR THE SCREENING...
I'M... GONNA GRAB A LITTLE MORE SLEEP BEFORE I HEAD TO THE AV ROOM...
CLUNK
ボー

PROBABLY HEAD FOR THE AV ROOM SOON.
I SHOULD
SORRY!
COULD YOU TAKE OVER AS WAITRESS?
OH, SURE!
TAP
TAP

SUWANO-SAN,
YOU'RE GOING TO THE STAGE GREETING EVENT, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT...
BEFORE YOU GO, COULD YOU
HUH?
COME WITH ME FOR A SEC?
WHERE?
SOMETHING WE NEED FOR THE GREETING EVENT!
TO A PLACE WHERE THERE'S
SPARKLE


SIGN TOP: MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y
謎の彼女Y
風見台高校映画研究部
SIGN BOTTOM: PRODUCED BY THE KAZAMIDAI HIGH SCHOOL FILM STUDIES CLUB
THERE ARE EVEN PEOPLE STANDING UP...
IT'S A FULL HOUSE!
THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN I EXPECTED...
WOW...
BAT
IT WAS THE MOMOKA IMAI PERFOR-MANCE!
OR A FLYER...?
THE GUIDE BOOK?
WHAT DID YOU GUYS SEE THAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO COME?
EXCUSE ME!
UH...

WERE BOTH JUST LIKE THE REAL THING!
AND HER SINGING AND DANCING
A GIRL WENT UP ON THE OUTSIDE STAGE AND PERFORMED JUST LIKE MOMOKA IMAI!
YEAH!
MOMOKA IMAI PERFORMANCE?!
IT WAS JUST INCREDIBLE!

SO WE CAME TO SEE IT!
SHE TOLD US A MOVIE SHE STARRED IN WAS SHOWING HERE AT 3:00,
THEN,
RIGHT!
RIGHT! RIGHT!

OH!
THAT'S HER!
HUH?!
BLACK HAIR,
WELL...
WHAT'D SHE LOOK LIKE?!
KINDA MESSY...
UH...
SO LISTEN...
THIS GIRL WHO PERFORMED JUST LIKE MOMOKA IMAI...

WAAAAAAAAH
U—
URABE ...!
WOW!
YOU LOOK AMAZING IN THAT DRESS!
OKA-SAN!
GRIN

SUWANO-SAN
IS IN THERE CHANGING INTO A DRESS NOW, TOO!
JUST LIKE HOLLY-WOOD ♪
FOR A STAGE GREETING EVENT, IT'S GOTTA BE A DRESS!
I WAS RIGHT
I WAS SO RIGHT TO BORROW THAT DRESS FROM THE THEATER CLUB ROOM!
BUT, WOW...
THAT SURE IS A LOT OF PEOPLE.
I GUESS YOUR PER-FORMANCE
REALLY HAD AN IMPACT!
HUH?
PERFOR-MANCE?
YOU KNOW!
WHEN YOU SANG "RED VACATION" ON THE OUTSIDE STAGE
I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD SING AND DANCE JUST LIKE
THE REAL MOMOKA IMAI!
THOUGH YOU DO LOOK LIKE HER...
WHAT...?!

SIGN: FILM STUDIES CLUB

WAKE UP!
SHAKE
SHAKE
MATSU-ZAWA!
WAKE UP!
C'MON!
YAMA-ZAKI...!
TUG
TUG
THEY WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE STAGE GREET-INGS.
THEY WON'T WAKE UP.
IT'S NO USE...
DASH

ホラーハウス
WHOA!
AH!

TSUBAKI-KUN...

SUWANO...

URABE'S ALREADY ON THE STAGE!
LET'S HURRY!
IT'S FOR THE STAGE GREETING EVENT, RIGHT?
IT—
OH...
UM...
THIS DRESS...
HUH...?
LOOKS GREAT ON YOU, TOO...
YOUR DRESS
HM?
SUWANO ...

REALLY GUILTY, FOR SOME REASON...
I FEEL...
URABE IS THE GIRL I LOVE MOST,
SO THE FACT THAT I TASTED YOUR DROOL
IS MY LIFE'S BIGGEST SECRET.
PFFT
HEH HEH HEH...

A LIE.
WAS JUST SPORTS DRINK!
WHAT YOU TASTED
THAT WAS ACTUALLY...
HEY, TSUBAKI-KUN...
I TOTALLY BELIEVED YOU!!
JOKE AROUND?
JO—
BUT I'M A LOT MORE FASTIDIOUS THAN YOU PROBABLY REALIZE.
THIS MIGHT SURPRISE YOU,
THAT I HAD PUT REAL DROOL ON MY FINGER,
NOT THE SPORTS DRINK.
IT MADE ME WANT TO JOKE AROUND WITH YOU...
WHEN I SAW YOUR FACE,
...WHAT?!

I WOULD NEVER DO THAT WITH ANYONE
SOMETHING LIKE
TASTING SOMEONE'S DROOL...
I WASN'T ACTUALLY DATING.
ホラーハウス
THAT SPORTS DRINK
TASTED ABNORMALLY SWEET...
演劇部
A LIE...
A JOKE...
THAT'S ALL IT WAS?
B—
BUT STILL...
FREEZE

WE ALL WORKED OUR VERY HARDEST ON THIS MOVIE.
SO YOU SEE,
UH, WELL THEN, WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE SCREENING.
AND WATCH IT TO THE END!
PLEASE STAY
ブーーーーッ

CLICK
WHISPER
THANKING ME!
YOU SHOULD BE
LOOKS LIKE A FULL HOUSE.
MIKOTO!
BEEN A WHILE.
MO—
MOMOKA
...

WHA—
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I JUST HAPPENED TO CHECK YOUR SCHOOL'S WEBSITE
AND SAW A NOTICE ABOUT THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.
YOUR NAME IS LISTED IN THE CAST FOR THE FILM STUDIES CLUB'S MOVIE!
I THOUGHT I'D COME CHEER YOU ON,
SO I PUT ON A LITTLE PERFORMANCE FOR YOU.
THAT PERFOR-MANCE ON THE OUTSIDE STAGE...
THAT WAS ACTUALLY YOU?!
DON'T GO AROUND USING MY NAME WITHOUT PERMISSION!
WELL, IT WORKED OUT, RIGHT?
IT'S ALWAYS BEST
TO SEE A MOVIE IN A PACKED THEATER.
I'M GONNA ENJOY SEEING THE MOVIE
THAT YOU AND TSUBAKI-KUN ARE IN!

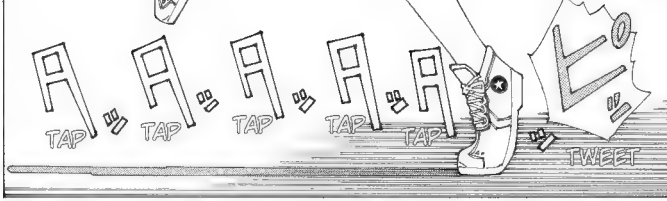
I CAN TASTE IT..
I DON'T KNOW HOW
BUT IT'S
SWEET

END OF CHAPTER 70

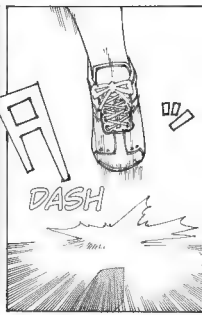
SO YOU SEE...
WE ALL WORKED OUR VERY HARDEST ON THIS MOVIE...
PLEASE STAY AND WATCH IT TO THE END!
HUH?
SUWANU SAN WHO...

CHAPTER 71: MYSTERIOUS MOLE
...A MOLE,
RIGHT HERE!

IN THE FILM STUDIES CLUB ROOM...
A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CULTURE FESTIVAL ENDED,
IT HAP-PENED
WHILE WE WERE WATCHING THE VIDEO OF THE MOVIE SCREENING.
IT BEGAN WITH AN INNOCENT COMMENT FROM OKA
SEE?
THERE'S A MOLE HERE!
WOW... EVER SINCE THE TIME OF THE STAGE GREETING EVENT,
I THOUGHT
THAT DRESS SHOWED A LOT OF HER BACK...
BUT A MOLE
JUST BARELY ABOVE HER BUTT...
THAT'S KINDA EROTIC!


TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TWEET

STARE
SPARKLE


DASH

WHA...
WHAT IS IT, OKA-SAN?
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME?
SIKED
STARE

A THING FOR MOLES.
I HAVE
SEE,
I WAS JUST THINKING,
OH...
WHEN I LOOK UP CLOSE...
I DON'T SEE ANY MOLES ON YOU...
MAKES THE WHITE-NESS AND SMOOTH-NESS OF HER SKIN EVEN MORE APPARENT.
I THINK A DARK MOLE ON A GIRL'S PALE SKIN
ON MY BODY!
I'VE NEVER NOTICED ANY MOLES
I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANY ...
WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET!!
URABE-SAN...
WHEN I SEE YOU LIKE THIS,
BUT,
I DON'T SEE ANY MOLES.

SOMEWHERE UNDER YOUR CLOTHES WHERE YOU CAN'T SEE,
A MOLE COULD STILL BE HIDING,
STAND-ING OUT SHARPLY AGAINST
THAT FINE PORCELAIN SKIN!!
ゴォォォオオオオオオ
ROOOAAAAAAR
LET ME LOOK FOR IT!!
I'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL MOLE-FINDING TEAM!!
THERE'S NO NEED!!
TSUBAKI-KUN,
I'M GOING TO PICK UP THE HANDOUTS
WE NEED TO DISTRUBUTE FOR THE NEXT CLASS.
COULD YOU HELP ME?
AFTER YOU FINISH EATING, I MEAN.
OH,
SURE!

!
OH?
NOW THAT I LOOK CLOSER,
SUWANO HAS TWO MOLES ON HER NECK.
WHAT IS IT,
TSUBAKI-KUN?
A LOT OF MOLES?
DOES SUWANO HAVE
AND THERE WAS THE ONE WE SAW IN THE VIDEO YESTERDAY...
AND
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE
ON HER
LEFT CALF...
HUH?
GASP
はっ

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT ME.
IT'S NOTHING...
OH...
COULD IT BE...
YOU WERE LOOK-ING AT MY MOLES?
HUH?!
WELL,
YOU SEEMED TO BE STARING AT MY NECK...
YEAH,
I HAVE TWO MOLES ON MY NECK.
AND MORE ON MY STOM-ACH AND CHEST ...
I ACTUALLY HAVE A LOT OF MOLES...
33 OF THEM...

33...
THAT'S PRETTY SPECIFIC.
I HAVE 33 MOLES ON MY BODY.
YEAH.
I KNOW, BECAUSE A WHILE AGO...
BUT IT'S ACCURATE.
SOMEONE COUNTED THEM FOR ME.
"SOMEONE" COUNTED THEM...?!

WAS IT... A BOYFRIEND?!
IF SHE HAD SOMEONE SHE WAS THAT CLOSE TO...
TO COUNT EVERY MOLE ON HER BODY, SHE'D HAVE TO TAKE OFF ALL HER CLOTHES...
THAT MEANS... SHE DIDN'T COUNT THEM HERSELF, BUT SOMEONE COUNTED THEM FOR HER...

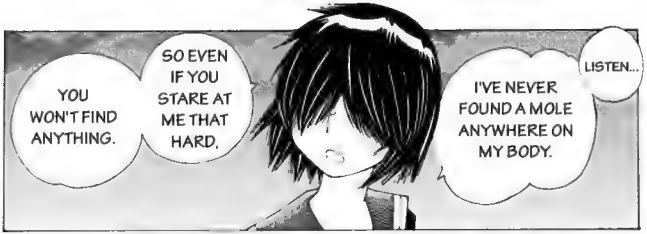
BUT IF URABE AND I GET CLOSER, WILL I EVER GET TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT WITH HER...?
TH-THAT'S TOO EROTIC...!!
IF... IF SHE REALLY DID THAT...
"I WANT YOU TO COUNT MY MOLES..."

I WANT YOU TO
TSUBAKI-KUN...
COUNT MY MOLES...
S—
SORRY...
IMAGINING URABE DOING THAT IS GONNA GIVE ME A NOSEBLEED...
YOU DROPPED ALL THE HAND-OUTS...
AH...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

STARE
SPARKLE

UH...
ER...
SORRY!!
HEY, TSUBAKI-KUN, YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT ME ALL THIS TIME...
UH..
STARE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE

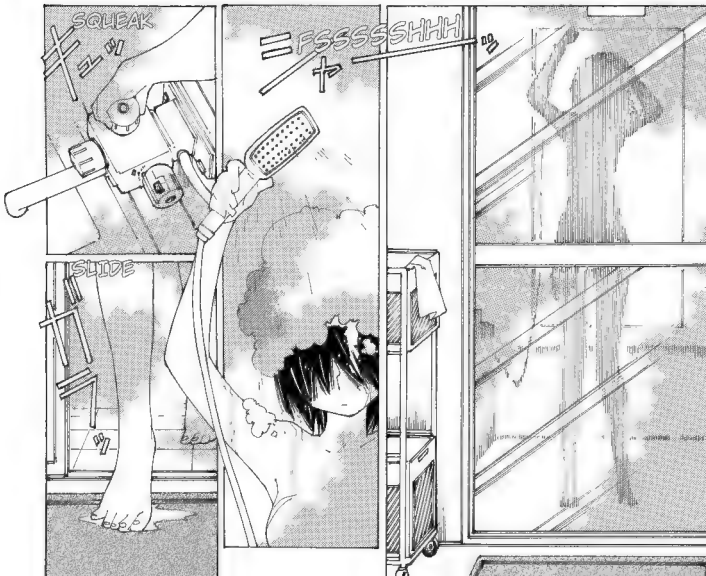
H—
HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
WHAAAAAT
!!
YOUR EYES LOOKED THE SAME AS OKA-SAN'S...
WHAT?!
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR MOLES?
BY ANY CHANCE,


LISTEN...
I'VE NEVER FOUND A MOLE ANYWHERE ON MY BODY.
SO EVEN IF YOU STARE AT ME THAT HARD,
YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING.

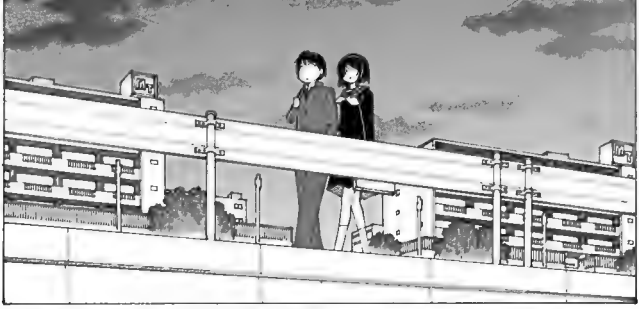
BUT
IF I EVER DO FIND A MOLE,
I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU.

R—
REALLY?!
OF COURSE
IF IT'S IN A PLACE
THAT I CAN'T SHOW PEOPLE,
I WON'T SHOW YOU, THOUGH.
OKAY!
THAT'S FINE WITH ME!

SCORE!
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ON HER HAND OR HER FOOT OR SOMETHING,
GETTING TO SEE A PART OF URABE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE MAKES ME HAPPY!


SQUEAK
FSSSSSHHH
SLIDE

NONE...
!
BLUUUUSH
かあ
あああ♡



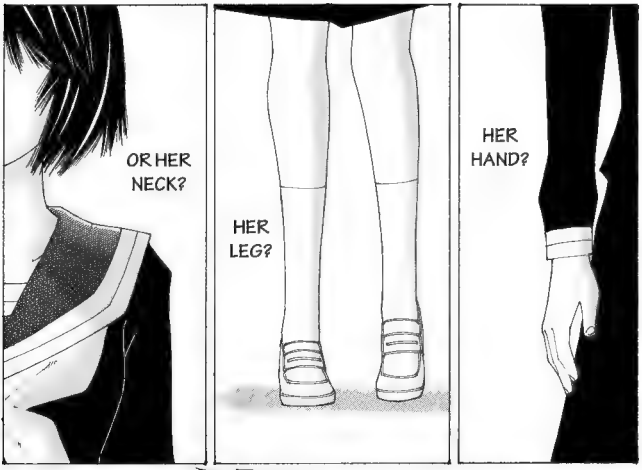
かぁぁ
ぉぉぉ♥

ちゅ
SCHLP

I FOUND JUST ONE...
WHAT?!
REALLY?
WHERE?!
DID YOU FIND
OH...
BY THE WAY, URABE,
ANY MOLES?
HUH?
M-MY FACE...
FEELS REALLY HOT ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
SO IT WAS IN A PLACE SHE CAN'T SHOW PEOPLE...
THAT'S WHY MY FACE IS SO HOT...
.....
URABE'S ONE AND ONLY MOLE,
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE
NO MATTER WHERE IT WAS...
I'LL
NEVER TELL YOU...

FWIP
HUH?
WHY?
A PEN...?
HERE, TAKE THIS.
IT'S A PEN.
I CAN'T SHOW YOU MY REAL MOLE...
SO IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE A MOLE ON ME,
THEN INSTEAD...
WITH THIS PEN.
YOU CAN DRAW ONE ANY-WHERE ON ME

THE PEN'S WATER SOLUBLE.
SURE.
SO IT'LL WASH OFF IN THE SHOWER.
HUH?!
I..
I CAN?
OF COURSE
NOT IN ANY WEIRD PLACES THOUGH..
WHERE...
SHOULD I PUT IT...
IT'S FINE.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
ARE...


OR HER NECK?
HER LEG?
HER HAND?

AH...

IS YOUR FACE OKAY?
MY FACE?
HEY
GABE...
DOT...
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
IF THAT'S WHERE YOU WANT TO PUT IT.

IT MADE ME HOPE-FUL
THAT, SOMEDAY, I'D GET TO SEE THE MOLE SHE HAS
IN A PLACE THAT SHE CAN'T SHOW ANYONE ELSE.
IN THE LIGHT OF THE SUN-SET,
WITH A SINGLE MOLE AT THE CORNER OF HER EYE,
URABE LOOKED SO ATTRACTIVE.

LOOKING FOR MY MOLES IN THE BATH?!
WILL YOU STOP
SHE HAS A SISTER WHO'S MUCH YOUNGER THAN SHE IS.
LATER, SUWANO TOLD ME THAT
*PS:
THAT'S 34!
I FOUND A MOLE ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR FOOT!
AH!
END OF CHAPTER 71

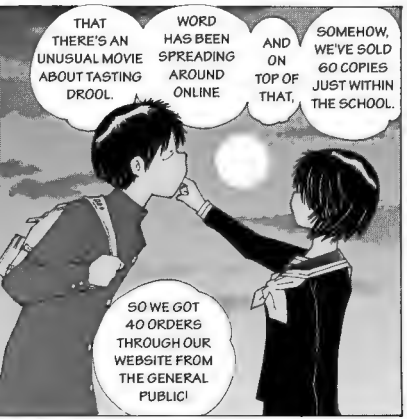
HERE, TSUBAKI!
IT'S YOUR COPY
OF THE "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y" RECORDING!

ALL RIGHT! NOW I CAN WATCH
URABE ON VIDEO WHENEVER I WANT♪
HM?
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, THAT?
THAT'S...

OH!
THANKS!

CHAPTER 72: MYSTERIOUS FRUIT

WH—
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
SALES COUNT ...?
EVERY YEAR,
OUR CLUB'S SELF-PRODUCED FILM
IS NOT ONLY SHOWN AT THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.
IT'S ALSO SOLD ON DVD AFTER THE FESTIVAL FOR 500 YEN PER COPY.
JACKPOT
BEST LIVE


SOMEHOW, WE'VE SOLD 60 COPIES JUST WITHIN THE SCHOOL.
AND ON TOP OF THAT,
WORD HAS BEEN SPREADING AROUND ONLINE
THAT THERE'S AN UNUSUAL MOVIE ABOUT TASTING DROOL.
SO WE GOT 40 ORDERS THROUGH OUR WEBSITE FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

BEFORE THIS YEAR, WE NEVER SOLD MORE THAN 30 COPIES AT BEST.
AND MOST OF THOSE WERE BOUGHT BY OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.
BUT THIS YEAR

I THOUGHT THE THEME OF
TASTING SOMEONE'S DROOL SEEMED KINDA ABNORMAL...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE
PEOPLE HAVE ACTUALLY TAKEN TO IT.

THE BLUES BROTHERS
THIS PICTURE WAS UPLOADED ON THE INTERNET ...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE MOVIE'S BEEN INFLUENCING PEOPLE.
WE'VE EVEN SEEN
STUFF LIKE THIS.
OF A GIRL PUTTING HER FINGER IN HER BOYFRIEND'S MOUTH.
JUST LIKE THE SCENE FROM THE MOVIE.
YOU SHOULD JOIN US, TSUBAKI.
SINCE THE DVD'S SELLING SO WELL, WE'RE THINKING OF THROWING A PARTY
SO,
"MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y"
HAS GOTTEN QUITE THE RESPONSE FROM PEOPLE.

YES.
DID YOU LIKE IT?
THANKS FOR LUNCH, OKA-SAN.
PEARS!
IT'S NOT FALL WITHOUT THESE!
DESSERT?
I HAVE DESSERT TODAY, TOO.
SEE?
FRUIT IS GREAT IN THE FALL!
APPLES, PERSIM-MONS...
IT'S GOOD...
MM!
TALING
OO

HMMM?
HM?
THIS IS THE FIRST PEAR I'VE HAD THIS YEAR.
MUNCH
WHAT IS IT, URABE-SAN?
OH, JUST..
EVERY YEAR, IN FALL,
THERE WAS SOME FRUIT I USED TO EAT
THAT I REALLY LOVED...
MUNCH
MUNCH
WHAT WAS IT?
...I CAN'T REMEMBER.
じゃーん♪
TA-DA
THE FALL FRUIT CAMPAIGN IS UNDER-WAY!!
POSE

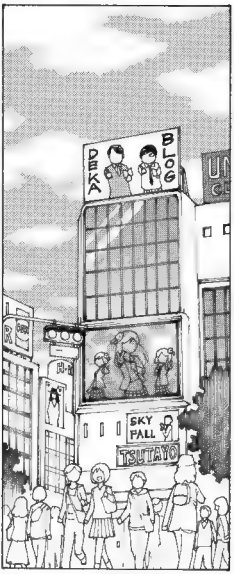
WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT THAT WAY!
LOOK FORWARD TO IT, URABE-SAN!
IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT FRUIT IT WAS YOU LOVED SO MUCH,
THEN STARTING TOMORROW,
I'LL BRING A DIFFERENT FRUIT FOR DESSERT EVERY DAY.
HERE
TSUBAKI-KUN
TODAY'S DOSE

HM?!
SCHLP
TASTES UNUSUALLY SWEET
REALLY?
TODAY'S DROOL
SOMEHOW
HUH?
UM
NOTHING NEVER MIND
THIS ROUTINE
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR OWN THING
はあ!
SIGH...
OF THE PEARS OKA-SAN GAVE ME AT LUNCH
MAYBE IT'S BE-CAUSE

URABE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
.....

SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

DOLCE & FEN
LOAD STAR


DEKA
BLOG
SKY FALL
TSUTAYA

DID YOU WAIT LONG, TSUBAKI-KUN?
OH...
NO, NOT AT ALL!
I JUST GOT HERE NOT LONG AGO, TOO.
WELL, LET'S HEAD TO THE THEATER.
WAIT A SECOND.
FIRST...
ちゅ
SCHNAZ

WHA—
BU—
HERE.
OUR USUAL ROUTINE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING,
URABE?!
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE AROUND!!
WE CAN'T DO THAT
WHAT?!
LOOK.
THEY'RE DOING IT, TOO.
MIRANO
LOOTO
LOOTO

ちゅ
SCHLP

ちゅっ
SCHLP
VISAS
GEH!!
AND OVER THERE.

SO...
NOW GIRLFRIENDS AND BOYFRIENDS TASTE EACH OTHER'S DROOL LIKE IT'S TOTALLY NORMAL...
THE INFLUENCE OF "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y" HAS SPREAD.

OUR DAILY ROUTINE
ISN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL.
A...
ANOTHER DREAM...
GAH!!

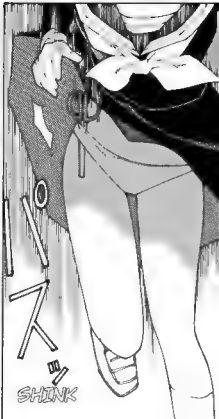
WELL, TSUBAKI-KUN.
SEE YOU TOMOR...
はあ
SIGH...
...ROW...
ちゅっ
SCHLP
HERE, TSUBAKI-KUN.
OUR USUAL ROUTINE...

URABE ...!!
HEY...
AH...
SCHLP
ちゅっ
ちゅ
SCHLP
ぽんっ
POP

YOU DO?
ER...
UH...
I'M NOT REALLY ...
...FEELING GLOOMY OR ANYTHING.
I...
I WONDER WHY?
WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?
TSUBAKI-KUN,
TELL ME
THE REASON WHY.
I FEEL...
HEAVY ...
SORT OF GLOOMY...

SNIP
ジャキ
SNIP
ジャキ
SNIP
ジャキ
SNIP
ジャキ

バラ…
SHATTER...


シュッ
SHINK

"MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y"?!
UH...
OKAY, WELL...
THE REASON WHY!
...TELL ME
FLUTTER
パラ。
YEAH.
THE CLUB'S MOVIE GOT A BIGGER REACTION THAN EXPECTED.
APPARENTLY, PHOTOS HAVE BEEN UPLOADED ON THE INTERNET OF COUPLES TASTING EACH OTHER'S DROOL.
BECAUSE OF THAT MOVIE,
WHAT USED TO BE A SPECIAL RITUAL JUST FOR THE TWO OF US...
SEEMS LIKE IT'LL TURN INTO SOMETHING TOTALLY NORMAL THAT EVERYBODY DOES WITHOUT EVEN A SECOND THOUGHT...

A LOT
OF DREAMS ABOUT THAT...
BUT
I'VE BEEN HAVING
I DON'T THINK A ROUTINE LIKE OURS
WILL ACTUALLY CATCH ON WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
NO MATTER HOW POPULAR "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y" WAS...
WHEN THAT HAPPENS,
YOU'RE GIVING IT TOO MUCH THOUGHT...
SOMETHING FUN...
YOU SHOULD DISTRACT YOURSELF WITH SOMETHING ELSE.
FOR EXAMPLE,
EATING SOMETHING THAT TASTES GOOD...

OH!
.....

BUY SOME-THING?
B—

HUH?
I'M GOING TO GO BUY SOME-THING!
TSUBAKI-KUN! WAIT HERE FOR A MINUTE!
DASH

URABE.
WHERE DID YOU GO?
HMM...
HMM...
THE PRODUCE STORE.

I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS FOR THE LIFE OF ME...
THAT I REALLY LIKED.
USED TO EAT EVERY FALL
THERE WAS SOME FRUIT I
THE PRODUCE STORE?
TSUBAKI-KUN,
OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
GRAPES.
RUSTLE
YAMADA FRUIT
BUT IT JUST CAME TO ME.
YAMADA FRUIT
DELIVERY

OKAY...
O—
POP
PEEL...
!!
SCHLRRP
SCHLRRP
SCHLRRP

ちゅく。
SCHLRRP
SCHLRRP
ちゅ…

POP
ポイッ

FLOOD
わぁぁぁ♥
しゅ
IT... IT'S INCREDIBLY SWEET...!!
EVEN IF OTHER PEOPLE START
DOING WHAT WE DO,
IT DOESN'T MATTER ONE BIT.
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT
THAT THE BOND WE HAVE
IS OURS AND OURS ALONE.

TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS!
HAVE SOME AUTUMN FRUIT
HERE
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL HAVE ANY
OF THOSE WEIRD DREAMS ANYMORE.
JUST AS URABE SAID,
FROM THAT NIGHT ON,
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MORE DREAMS ABOUT
O—
OKAY...
THE DROOL-TASTING ROUTINE CATCHING ON.
THE FALL FRUIT CAMPAIGN!
CHEST-NUTS!
HMM... NOPE.
BUT CHEST-NUTS ARE GOOD TOO♥
ARE CHEST-NUTS EVEN FRUIT?
MUNCH
MUNCH

THAT'S STRANGE...
HUH?
JUPITER
1969
I'LL TURN IT OFF
AND ON AGAIN!
カチッ
ON
OFF
CLICK
カチッ
CLICK
DO YOU SUPPOSE IT'S FINALLY BROKEN FOR GOOD?
.....
... IT'S NOT TURNING ON.
ポ°
FLASH
OH!

CHAPTER 73: MYSTERIOUS CHRISTMAS
IT CAME ON...

Merry Christmas
IT WOULD STILL TURN ON!
I TOLD YOU
SEE?! SEE?! JUST LOOK!
POOF
Merry Christmas
Merry Christmas
FIRST IT'S ON, THEN IT'S OFF...
THAT'S ONE FINICKY TREE.
AH...
IT WENT OFF AGAIN...
SHOULDN'T WE JUST BUY A NEW ONE?
NO!
BUT THIS CHRISTMAS TREE...
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER SINCE YOU WERE STILL LITTLE,

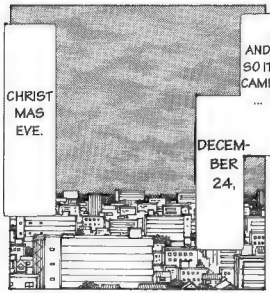
...WAS BOUGHT BY
OUR MOTHER.

BUT IT ONLY STAYS LIT FOR A MOMENT. THEN IT GOES OFF
THERE'S THIS LIGHT-UP CHRISTMAS TREE WE'VE HAD IN OUR HOUSE FOREVER.
YEAH
HUH?
A BROKEN CHRISTMAS TREE?
I THINK IT'S AT THE END OF ITS LIFELINE.

BUT WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES AROUND,
MY SISTER ALWAYS
TAKES IT OUT
AND TRIES TO USE IT.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S BROKEN...
WELL, SHE SAID
OUR MOM BOUGHT IT A LONG TIME AGO,
SO WE HAVE TO PUT IT UP EVERY YEAR.
OH...
SHE WON'T BUY A NEW ONE?
I'M SORRY...
EH?
FOR SAYING YOU SHOULD
BUY A NEW ONE...
HUH?!
OH, IT'S FINE!
I'VE TOLD HER THE SAME THING!
BESIDES...

ALL I KNOW ABOUT THAT TREE IS THAT IT'S BEEN IN OUR HOUSE AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER...
SO EVEN AFTER SHE TOLD ME OUR MOM BOUGHT IT,
I WAS STILL REALLY YOUNG WHEN OUR MOM DIED,
IT'D BE EVEN BETTER IF I COULD SHOW IT TO HER THEN...
OF COURSE, IF WE COULD SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE ALONE TOGETHER
COME BY SOMETIME
SURE.
AND I'LL SHOW YOU.
TO SEE THAT CHRISTMAS TREE
I'D LIKE
SOMEDAY.
I WAS GOING TO INVITE HER TO A MOVIE OR SOMETHING...
I SEE...
OH...
SINCE MY FAMILY WILL BE TOGETHER
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...
I'LL BE SPENDING CHRISTMAS EVE AT HOME.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY...

HE HAS A DATE WITH OKA...
UENO SAID
DAMN...
I ENVY HIM...


CHRIST MAS EVE.
DECEM- BER 24,
AND SO IT CAME ...

天気予報
THE FORE- CAST SAID THAT, START- ING IN THE EVE- NING...
...IT WOULD SNOW.

WELL, MY SISTER GOES ALL-OUT COOKING DINNER FOR US ON THAT DAY, TOO.
GUESS WE'LL BOTH BE SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH OUR FAMILIES...

THAT'S STRANGE...
NOW IT
WON'T TURN ON AGAIN.
CAN I OPEN THE CHAMPAGNE NOW?
CLICK
CLICK
HUH?
HUH?
Merry Christmas
CLICK
CLICK
I THINK THAT THING HAS LIVED ITS LIFE.
TODAY'S CHRISTMAS EVE,
AND IT BARELY LIT UP AT ALL.
IT'LL BE FINE!
IF I LEAVE THE POWER ON,
IT'LL LIGHT UP EVENTUALLY!
MOM WAS A FINICKY SORT OF PERSON, TOO!
THAT'S WHY THIS TREE
IS SO FINICKY!
WHAT KIND OF LOGIC IS THAT?
I'M OPENING IT!

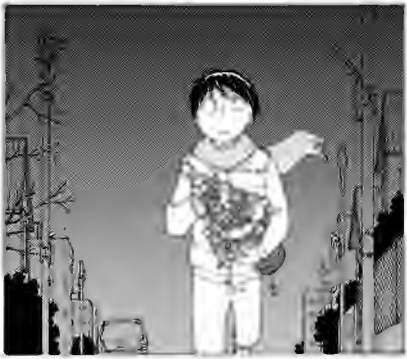
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
HE CAN'T?
STOP! AKIRA CAN'T HAVE ALCOHOL!
HEY!
HE—
ポーン
POP
OH?
OKAY.
I'LL GET IT.
OH,
RIIIIIIING
RIIING
トゥルルルル
YES,
TSUBAKI RESIDENCE ...

U—
URABE...!
IT'S ME...
AH...
TSUBAKI-KUN...?

HUH?
UH,
SURE, I CAN...
TO WHERE WE ALWAYS DO OUR ROUTINE?
TSUBAKI-KUN,
COULD YOU COME
WH—
WHAT'S UP?
NOW OF ALL TIMES ...

I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT!
SIS!
WHAT?!
AT THIS HOUR?!
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.
OKAY, I'LL BE WAITING THERE.
OH,
OKAY!
I'LL BE THERE SOON!

I'LL COME BACK
AS SOON AS I CAN!
U.T
YELLOW MAGIC
WHERE ARE YOU GOING
HE—
HEY! AKIRA!
WITH OUR CHRISTMAS TREE?!
DASH
チキ
CHIK
I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT CHRISTMAS TREE SOMEDAY.
Merry Christmas
GRAB
JUST BORROWING IT FOR A WHILE!
Merry Christmas



AH...

SNOWING ...
IT'S
WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
NOT AT ALL
NO
TSUBAKI KUN
URABE!
YEAH, IT'S THE CHRISTMAS TREE I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE
OH THIS?
IS THAT
OH
TSU-BAKI-KUN

PLUG IT IN, BUT...
WE NORMALLY
UM ! OH!
SINCE I'M SEEING YOU,
I THOUGHT I'D SHOW IT TO YOU NOW...
IT CAN ALSO
USE BATTERIES

BUT IT'S EVEN WORSE TODAY.
IT ALWAYS HAS TROUBLE FIRING UP
CLICK CLICK
HUH?
HM?
...IT'S NOT TURNING ON
NOW.
OFF
ON
IT SHOULD TURN ON
ON

YOU SAID YOU WANTED
URABE.
TO SHOW ME SOMETHING
WAIT.
HUH?
OH...
SURE.
CAN I
TRY IT?
SHFF
WHAT IS IT?
OH...
O—

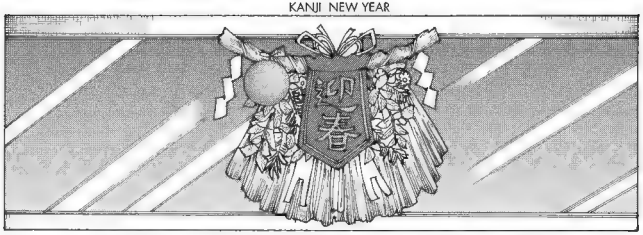
FLASH
OFF
ON
SLICK

IT'S ON!
Merry Christmas

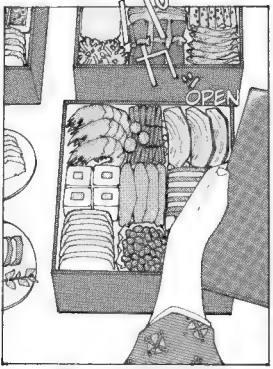
TSUBAKI-KUN,
IT TURNS ON JUST FINE!
AH...
W—
WELL...
NORMALLY, IT ALMOST NEVER DOES!
WAIT...
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?!

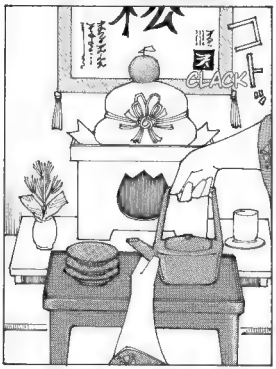
WHEN I TRIED IT ON I SUDDENLY WANTED TO SHOW IT TO YOU...
MY DAD WAS AWAY FOR A LONG TIME. AND WHEN HE CAME HOME HE BROUGHT ME THIS SANTA DRESS.
OH
THIS?
SO THAT'S
WHY YOU CALLED ME OUT HERE...
TONIGHT REALLY FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS!
SOMEHOW...
WITH MY CHRISTMAS DRESS
AND YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE.

END OF ☒ CHAPTER 73


謹賀新春

THAT'S IT!
AND... THERE!


OPEN


CLACK

AKIRA!
DAD!
WAKE UP!

CHAPTER 74: MYSTERIOUS NEW YEAR'S CARD
YAWN...
MORNING, YOUKO.
OH...
HAPPY NEW YEAR,
SIS.
HEY, YOU TWO!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

WE'RE STARTING OVER!
GO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES!
IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR! YOU HAVE TO DRESS MORE NEATLY!
ポリポリ
SCRATCH SCRATCH
ゴシゴシ
RUB RUB
WHAT IS ALL THIS?!
HOW CAN YOU LOOK SO SLOPPY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?!
NOW, ONCE AGAIN...
OKAY,
YOUKO IS ALWAYS FUSSY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS.
WHAT A PAIN...

HAPPY NEW YEAR.
HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WAS THAT THE MAILMAN'S MOTOR-BIKE?
I BET HE BROUGHT NEW YEAR'S CARDS.
OH, I'LL GO CHECK.
VROOM
YELLOW MAGIC ORCHE

CARD TOP: HAPPY NEW YEAR

CARD BOTTOM: MIKOTO

THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE...
THIS YEAR IS
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT!

IS REALLY FUSSY ABOUT THAT STUFF.
MY SISTER
YEAH,

CAME ON THE 1ST.
YOUR NEW YEAR'S CARD
OH,

MAKES ME WEIRDLY HAPPY...
THAT KIND OF THING
I GOT YOURS ON THE 1ST, TOO.

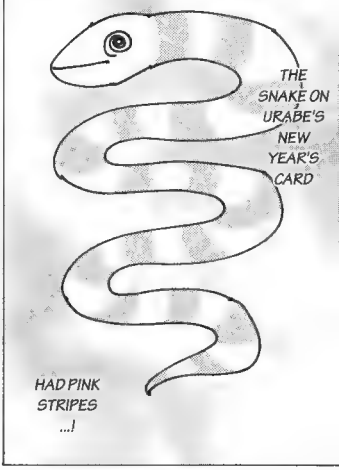
SHE SAID WE SHOULD BE DRESSED NEATLY ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR!
AND SHE GOT MAD AND TOLD ME TO GO CHANGE.
I CAME DOWNSTAIRS IN MY PAJAMAS ON NEW YEAR'S,
WOW!

AH...
YEAH!
SAME TO YOU!
I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER YEAR TOGETHER.
TSUBAKI-KUN.
OUR FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE NEW YEAR...
AND OUR FIRST TIME DOING OUR ROUTINE.
SCHLP
TSUBAKI-KUN.
HERE,
SCHLP

BAM
ミ＼ヤッ
HUH?!

SEE YA!
UH...
OKAY!
TSUBAKI-KUN!
WELL, SEE YOU TOMORROW,
HUH...?!
WHEN I TASTED URABE'S DROOL JUST NOW...
I SAW A PINK STRIPED PATTERN...
FOR SOME REASON, IN MY MIND...
WHAT WAS IT?!
WHEN I THINK OF PINK STRIPES...

COULD THE IMAGE I SAW IN MY MIND
AND THE SNAKE ON URABE'S CARD...
ACTUALLY BE CONNECTED SOMEHOW...?!


THE SNAKE ON URABE'S NEW YEAR'S CARD
HAD PINK STRIPES ...!

AHH...
I SPENT WINTER BREAK
DOING NOTHING BUT EAT AND LAZE AROUND,
AND NOW I'M SO OUT OF SHAPE...
IT'S THE NEW YEAR.
MAYBE I SHOULD SHAKE THINGS UP
AND TRY OUT A NEW LOOK.
A NEW LOOK?

GROW OUT LONG.
OR LETTING MY HAIR
AND GETTING CONTACT LENSES...
LIKE LOSING THE GLASSES
YEAH!
REALLY LIKES MY GLASSES AND SHORT HAIR...
YEAH, THAT'S THE THING...
UENO-KUN
...WHAT WOULD UENO-KUN THINK?
THOUGH...
A NEW LOOK...
DYING YOUR HAIR...
LIKE MAYBE
I DON'T NEED TO.
DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT TRYING A NEW LOOK?
URABE-SAN,

I'M NOT TELLING.
I CAN'T SAY I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
OH?!
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?!
CLAP
ZOOM
LOOK!
A CAT!

UH...
ZOOM
NYAH.
URABE-SAN.
...YOU'VE GOTTEN GOOD,
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
SLITHER
ズズズ…

ズ
SLITHER
ズズ
ズズ
SLITHER
ズズ
SLITHER
ズ
NNNGH

WHAT DOES IT MEAN...?!
I DREAM ABOUT THAT SNAKE EVERY NIGHT...
EVER SINCE I SAW THAT PINK-STRIPED SNAKE AFTER TASTING URABE'S DROOL,
IT'S WEIRD...

HERE,
TSUBAKI-KUN
TODAY'S DOSE..
SO MAYBE IT'S A GOOD OMEN...?
I GUESS THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE,

SCHLP
ちゅっ
YEAH...
Y—
WHAT'S THAT...?!
WHA...
TSUBAKI-KUN...
WELL,
SEE YOU.
AROUND URABE'S BODY...
SLITHER

DASH
AH
WHAT IS THAT THING?!
IS WINDING AROUND HER...
THAT PINK-STRIPED SNAKE

GRAB
UH...
SHOOM

I—
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT!
N-NOT THE PANTY SCISSORS!
WHA?!
HUH?!
SKID
SKID
SKID
SKID
FWISH
WHOOOSH
THE P—
I JUST SAW IT!

P—
PINK STRIPES ...!!
WHAT...?!
SO THAT'S WHAT
THE SNAKE WAS!!

DREAMS ABOUT A PINK-STRIPED SNAKE EVERY NIGHT.
I'VE BEEN HAVING
AND NOW I KNOW WHY...
EVER SINCE I TASTED YOUR DROOL AT NEW YEAR'S,
UH—
OH...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE SNAKE?!
AND I JUST THOUGHT
THEY WERE CUTE...
SO I BOUGHT LOTS OF THEM...
THAT'S IT!
HUH?
WHEN I BOUGHT NEW CLOTHES AT THE END OF THE YEAR.
I HAPPENED TO FIND THEM...
WEARING PINK-STRIPED PANTIES
SINCE THE NEW YEAR STARTED?
URABE...
HAVE YOU BEEN

YOU KNOW
URABE!
YOU ALWAYS WORE WHITE PANTIES BEFORE!
YOU'VE BEEN WEARING PANTIES WITH A DIFFERENT PRINT,
AND I SAW IT AS A SNAKE!
OH...
THE PINK-STRIPED SNAKE ON YOUR NEW YEAR'S CARD...
WERE YOU SENDING ME AN INDIRECT MESSAGE THAT YOU HAD NEW PANTIES?
A PINK-STRIPED SNAKE ...?
OH, YEAH...
I DID DRAW THAT...
DID YOU DRAW THAT PICTURE WITH THE SLIGHTEST WISH FOR ME YOUR BOYFRIEND, TO SEE THEM...?
EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE...

END OF CHAPTER 74

URABE-SAN,
ARE YOU ALL READY
FOR TOMORROW?
READY?
FOR WHAT?
WELL, OF COURSE,
VALENTINE'S DAY!
YOU'RE GOING
TO GIVE CHOCO-LATE
TO TSU-BAKI-KUN, RIGHT?
NO.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THOSE EVENTS
THAT EVERYBODY DOES.

CHAPTER 75: MYSTERIOUS VALENTINE

URABE-SAN.
LISTEN,
I'M GLAD I ASKED.
SO I WAS REALLY CURIOUS...
YOU DON'T ALWAYS FOLLOW COMMON SENSE,
URABE-SAN,
I...I DROPPED MY BACON ROLL!
BOYS ARE CREA-TURES
THAT GET EXCITED BEYOND ALL REASON
WHEN THEY GET CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY!
NOT GETTING CHOCOLATE FROM HIS OWN GIRLFRIEND
IS AN INCREDIBLY SAD THING
FOR A BOY.
IF UENO-KUN DOESN'T GET CHOCOLATE FROM ME TOMORROW,
OKA DIDN'T GIVE ME CHOCOLATE ...
I THINK HE'LL BE SO CRUSHED, HE'LL KILL HIMSELF.
I'LL JUST DIE...!

SO, URABE-SAN,
YOU HAVE TO GIVE CHOCOLATE TO TSUBAKI-KUN, TOO!
AND JUST LIKE THAT, FEBRUARY 14 CAME.
SO TODAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY...
HERE♥
TSUBAKI-KUN, HAVE SOME CHOCOLATE♥
WILL URABE...
GIVE ME ANY CHOCOLATE?
I'LL BE... REALLY HAPPY IF SHE DOES...
TSUBAKI-SENPAI!

GOOD MORNING, MATSU-ZAWA!
TSUBAKI-SENPAI!
HUH?
TEXAS CHAIN SAW
OH, RIGHT! SENPAI!
HERE!
Y— YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
IN THE MORNING LIKE THIS.
I DON'T OFTEN SEE YOU
FOR ME?!
WHAT?!
VALENTINE'S DAY, RIGHT?
TODAY IS

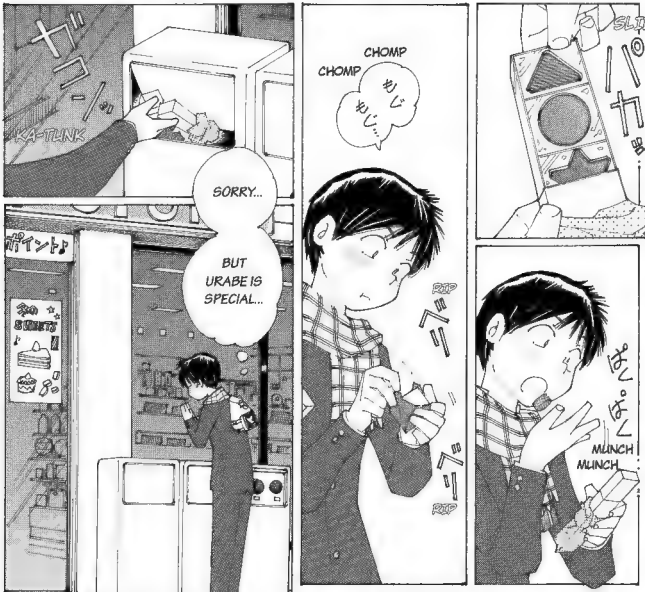
I'M GIVING THEM TO ALL THE GUYS IN THE FILM STUDIES CLUB!
OH... I SEE.
SO IT WAS JUST OUT OF OBLIGATION...
THAT SCARED ME.
YOU WORKED REALLY HARD IN OUR MOVIE, "MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND Y," TOO!
TH—
THANKS,
MATSUZAWA...
SENPAI! COME TO THE CLUB ROOM EVERY NOW AND THEN!
YEAH... WELL...
HERE, TSUBAKI-KUN.
CHOCOLATE.
HUH...?!

SINCE WE'RE ALWAYS ON DUTY TOGETHER FOR THE CLASS.
YOU KNOW.
TODAY IS VALEN-TINE'S DAY, RIGHT?
OH...
UM...
CHOCO-LATE FROM YOU...
I CAN'T TAKE
YEAH...
BUT...
I SAW YOU.
BESIDES,
IT'S FINE!
I'M GIVING THIS TO YOU AS A FRIEND.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE DATING URABE-SAN?

THIS MORNING,
YOU TOOK CHOCOLATE
FROM MATSU-ZAWA-SAN.
YOU SAY YOU WON'T TAKE MINE
BECAUSE YOU'RE DATING URABE-SAN,
BUT YOU TOOK THEM FROM A YOUNGER GIRL.
UH...
YEAH, BUT THAT WAS...
OH... I SEE.
YOU JUST DON'T LIKE ME.
I SEE. I SEE.
TH—
THAT'S NOT IT!
I DON'T HATE YOU!
WHIRL
THEN,
TAKE IT!
.....
O—
OKAY.

BEFORE GETTING ANY
FROM URABE...
I ALREADY GOT TWO CHOCOLATES
HMM...
AH...
SPILL
ポロ
WHAT ARE THESE?
.....
UH...
WELL ...
UH-OH...
IF WE MEET UP AT OUR USUAL PLACE AFTER THIS...
TSU-BAKI-KUN, WANT TO DO OUR HOME-WORK IN THE PARK?
YEAH, SURE!

I'LL JUST DISPOSE OF THE EVIDENCE!
BEFORE I GO TO OUR USUAL SPOT,
OKAY!
STARE...
WOULD DEFINITELY GET MAD AT ME...
URABE...
... AND IF THINGS END UP LIKE THAT...
RIP
RIP
RIP


KA-TUNK
SORRY...
BUT URABE IS SPECIAL...
CHOMP
CHOMP
SLIP
MUNCH MUNCH
RIP
RIP

TSUBAKI-KUN...
URABE!
THANKS FOR WAITING!
チラッ
GLANCE
WILL URABE...
GIVE ME CHOCOLATE?

OUR USUAL ROUTINE...
OKAY, TSUBAKI-KUN,
S— SURE.
HERE, TSUBAKI-KUN.
OH! RIGHT.
YOINK

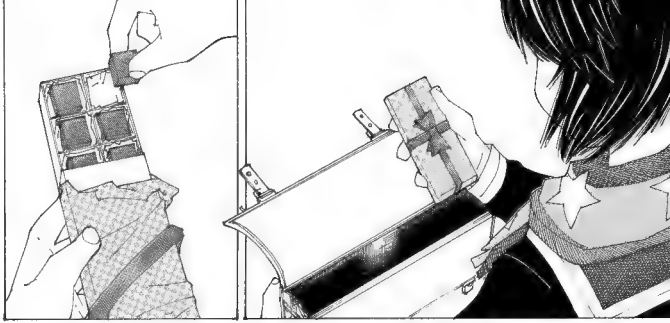
HUH?!
ぽ
ん
POP
ぱ
POK
ん
AH...
I...
...IT TASTES LIKE CHOCOLATE...
WELL ...
TSUBAKI-KUN
じろ
ちゅ
NO, WAIT...
WHOA!
DON'T TASTE MY DROOL NOW!!

DID YOU
EAT CHOCO-LATE
BEFORE YOU CAME HERE?
WELL...
UH...
UM...
TO—
TODAY
AT SCHOOL
MATSUZAWA AND SUWANO
GA—
GAVE ME...
CHO—CHOCO-LATE...

BU—
BUT
THEY WERE BOTH OUT OF OBLI-GATION!
YOU KNOW,
MATSU-ZAWA AND I ARE IN THE SAME CLUB,
AND SUWANO AND I
HAVE THE SAME CLASS DUTIES.

TSUBAKI-KUN...
WE ARE BOY-FRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND,
BUT I THINK WE SHOULD JUST
DATE EACH OTHER IN OUR OWN WAY.
SO
THINGS THAT EVERYONE DOES,
LIKE VALENTINE'S DAY...

WELL
SEE YOU TOMOR ROW
TSUBAKI KUN
...DON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO US.
URABE...
.....



SIGN. KAZAMIDAI SHOPPING DISTRICT

SIGN: VALEN-TINES

IS AN INCREDIBLY SAD THING FOR A BOY.

FROM HIS OWN GIRLFRIEND

NOT GETTING CHOCO-LATE

OLDER SISTER...
TSUBAKI-KUN'S...
YOU'RE URABE-SAN...
RIGHT?
REMEM-BER?
YOU'RE ALWAYS BRINGING OVER HAND-OUTS FOR MY BROTHER.
NO...
COME TO BUY CHOCOLATE, TOO?
AH,
DID YOU
WHICH ONE SHOULD I GET...
LET'S SEE...
THEY'RE STILL
BOYS, AFTER ALL.
I'M GETTING SOME
FOR MY DAD AND AKIRA.
YOU KNOW,
EVEN IF THEY'RE FAMILY,

DO YOU HAVE
A BOY YOU LIKE
THAT YOU COULD GIVE
CHOCOLATE TO?
YES,
I DO!
GRAB
EXCUSE ME!
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE!
THAT'S A PRETTY CLICHÉD SHAPE...
THANK YOU!

AHH...
I DIDN'T GET
ANY CHOCOLATE FROM URABE...
JUPITER
PIONEER
HOME RUN

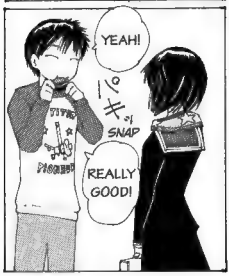
OH!!
WHO IS IT?
YES?
KA-CHAK
DING DONG
JUPITER
PIONEER

URABE!!
WH—
WHAT BRINGS YOU
OVER HERE OUT OF THE BLUE?
THERE'S SOME-THING
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU.
HERE...
WHAT?!

.....
I CHANGED MY MIND...
.....
DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER THAT VALENTINE'S DAY DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING?
BUT
CHOCO-LATE...
THAT'S A PRETTY CLICHÉD SHAPE...
ASTRONAUT
PUTER

RIP
RIP
SNAP
TUPITE
MUNCH
もぐ
MUNCH
もぐ
HUH?
...SURE.
CAN I
URABE!
EAT IT RIGHT NOW?

IS IT
THAT GOOD...?


YEAH!
パキッ
SNAP
REALLY GOOD!

THIS IS
REALLY GOOD!
MM!

ぽん
POP

ちゅ
SCHLP...

ちゅ
SCHLP

END OF CHAPTER 75

WHICH IS IT?
資料室
HMM...
IT SAYS "16TH CENTURY WORLD MAP" HERE
OH!
IT IS!
THIS IS IT!
OH.
IS THIS IT?
HM?
LET'S SEE...
SO,
TO THANK YOU FOR LAST MONTH.
HERE!
WHITE DAY, RIGHT?
OH.
RIGHT.
YOU KNOW, TODAY IS...
SO WAND

CHAPTER 76: MYSTERIOUS WHITE DAY

MY...
MY FEELINGS WENT INTO IT, SO...
Y—
YEAH, WELL ...
ARE THERE COOKIES INSIDE?
ONLY ONE OR TWO WOULD FIT IN A BOX THIS SMALL...
...VERY SMALL.
IT LOOKS ...
ギクッ TWITCH
TO DIFFERENTIATE FROM THE ONE YOU GIVE YOUR GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
YOU DELIBERATELY GAVE ME A SMALL ONE
I BET...
TWITCH ギクッ TWITCH ギクッ
IS MUCH BIGGER THAN THIS.
YOU'RE GIVING URABE
I BET THE ONE
IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY SUWANO AND I ARE ALONE IN THIS DARK, CRAMPED REFERENCE ROOM...
Y—
YES?
TSUBAKI-KUN
NOW,

I FIGURED, IF I GAVE SUWANO HER PRESENT IN RETURN FOR VALENTINE'S DAY HERE, THERE'S NO WAY URABE WOULD SEE US...
OUR WORLD HISTORY TEACHER SAID THAT TO US...
SINCE WE HAVE THE SAME CLASS DUTIES,
OH,
AFTER YOU DISTRIBUTE THOSE HANDOUTS,
OKAY.
BRING ME THE 16TH CENTURY WORLD MAP FROM THE REFERENCE ROOM.
WE'LL BE USING IT IN CLASS.
Y—
YES...?
TSUBAKI-KUN...
BUT I NEVER EXPECTED THIS TO HAPPEN...!
Y—
YES, I DO!
I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE!
DO YOU
REALLY LOVE
URABE-SAN?

STOP GOING AROUND!
S...
BUT BECAUSE I WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH YOU
WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
LET'S SAY...
I GAVE THAT TO YOU NOT AS A FRIEND
THAT CHOCOLATE I GAVE YOU LAST MONTH...

SO IF ANOTHER GIRL SAID SHE LIKED ME...
SO...
I'M GOING OUT WITH URABE...
I COULDN'T GO OUT WITH HER...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
B...
BESIDES
I...

AS LONG AS URABE-SAN DIDN'T FIND OUT...
BUT YOU COULD...

WHA...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
IF WE DATED IN SECRET
SO URABE-SAN WOULDN'T FIND OUT...
IF...
IF I COULD GO OUT WITH YOU...
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING NUMBER 2...

WH—
WHA—
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING
SLIP
ROLL

ドッカーン
KA-THUD
バッ
WHOOF

SHOOF
S—
SORRY, SUWANO!!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
THIS MAP...!
IT CAUGHT ON YOUR SKIRT...!!
YOU SAW, DIDN'T YOU,
TSUBAKI-KUN?
I... I DID, BUT ...
IT REALLY WASN'T ON PURPOSE!
I'M SORRY!!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY...
CARRY THAT MAP CAREFULLY
MAKE SURE YOU
R—
RIGHT!
CLASS WILL BE STARTING SOON
LET'S GO
BUT IT'S OKAY
WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY
THAT'S
IT'S PARTIALLY MY FAULT THAT YOU FELL ANYWAY

WHO WASN'T URABE...
I SAW THE PANTIES OF A GIRL
AND THEY WERE u BLACK ♥
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...

I CAN'T GET RID OF THE IMAGE OF SUWANO'S BLACK UNDERWEAR...

WHEN I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE URABE A GIFT IN RETURN FOR HER CHOCOLATE,
TODAY IS WHITE DAY,
TH—
THIS ISN'T GOOD...
YET IN MY MIND...

JUST LIKE...
THIS IS

BUT BLACK DAY!!
...TODAY ISN'T WHITE DAY.
URABE!
ANYWAY,
TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T FIND OUT,
I CAN'T LET URABE TASTE MY DROOL TODAY...

I HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU...
BEFORE OUR ROUTINE ...
WAIT!
AH,
SCHOOL?
IT'S IN RETURN FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!
WHITE DAY!
REMEMBER? TODAY IS
HERE.

OF COURSE!
SURE!
TSUBAKI-KUN,
CAN I OPEN IT
AND EAT SOME NOW?

?
?
WELL?
DO YOU LIKE THEM,
URABE?
POP
ぽい
カリ
CRUNCH
カリ
CRUNCH
カリ
CRUN

POKE
FWOOSH!
TSUBAKI-KUN,
!
WHY ARE YOU COVERING YOUR MOUTH?
W—
WELL...
IT'S A BAD IDEA FOR YOU TO TASTE MY DROOL TODAY!
A BAD IDEA?
WHY?
BE-CAUSE, UM...
I HAVE A COLD!
I'M COMING DOWN WITH A COLD TODAY,
AND I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU SICK!

UH...
RIGHT!
PWA
GLARE
MOVE YOUR HANDS...
TSUBAKI-KUN...
POP
ぽん
SCHLP
ちゅっ
ZAM

WHEN I TASTED YOUR DROOL,
BLACK...
EVERYTHING IN MY MIND TURNED BLACK...
ミャッ!!
DUUUN...
ACTUALLY...
I CAN'T GET AWAY WITH LYING TO URABE...
DOES THIS MEAN,
WHAT...
TSUBAKI-KUN?
WELL...
UH...
UM...

SUWANO-SAN'S
UNDER-WEAR...?
THAT'S RIGHT...
I SAW IT BY ACCIDENT,
AND NOW HER BLACK UNDER-WEAR
WON'T GET OUT OF MY MIND...
SO THAT'S WHY
EVERY-THING IN MY MIND WENT BLACK
AFTER I TASTED YOUR DROOL...
TODAY IS WHITE DAY...
BUT NOW IT'S JUST LIKE BLACK DAY.
YES!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I THOUGHT A MINUTE AGO!
THAT IT'S JUST LIKE BLACK DAY NOW...
AHAHA
あはは
はは...
HAHA
ジッ
GLARE
ER...
UH...
SORRY.

TO TURN YOUR MIND FROM "BLACK" BACK TO "WHITE"...
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE.
SHOW YOU SOMETHING WHITE, RIGHT?
I JUST HAVE TO
SKID
HUH?
WHIRL
KICK

WHISH

SCHLP
POP
SCHLP

BAAAM
THE IMAGE IS WHITE NOW.
YEP.
NOW IT'S REALLY WHITE DAY.
Y—
YOU'RE RIGHT!
THIS IS GREAT...!
WHOOSH

TAP
TSUBAKI-KUN.
LIES WON'T WORK
WITH THE BOND WE HAVE.

S—
SURE!
TSUBAKI-KUN,
THANKS FOR THE
WHITE DAY COOKIES.
REALLY GOOD.
NOW THEY TASTE
MM.
POP
ぽん
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

WITH THE BOND OF DROOL THAT WE HAVE...
IT'S TRUE THAT LIES WON'T WORK
SURE!
S—
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING NUMBER 2...
IF I COULD GO OUT WITH YOU,
CHEAT ON URABE WITHOUT HER KNOWING ...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER
END OF CHAPTER 76